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Department of State TELEGRAM

9/14/67 1674

Saigon 5955 9-14-67

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 05955 01 OF 02 150651Z

3
ACTION EA 19

INFO SAL 01, SP 02, SS 35, GPM 03, SC 01, NSC 10, RSC 01, AID 30, SAH 03,
IO 21, RSR 01, NSCE 00, CIAE 00, SSO 00, DODE 00, USIE 00, NSAE 00, L 03,
H 02, P 04, INR 07, /143 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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DECLASSIFY ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE EXCISE ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

P R 141025Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6854
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4245
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 962
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2529

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 5955

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A) SAIGON 5831; B) SAIGON 5127

SUBJECT: DZU PRESS CONFERENCE

1. TRUONG DINH DZU AND SUPPORTING CAST COMPOSED OF PHAN KHAC SUU, NGUYEN HOA HIEP, VU HONG KHANH AND HOANG CO BINH HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAIGON MORNING SEPTEMBER JNRM DZU'S RUNNING-MATE, TRAN VAN CHIEU AND REPRESENTATIVE OF TRAN VAN KY ALSO ATTENDED. IN ADDITION, SEVEN DEFEATED

(1)

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 5955/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATES LENT THEIR SUPPORT: NGUYEN TUONG BA, PHAM THAI, NGUYEN TRAN, PHAM LOI, HONG NGOC, NGUYEN THANH CANH AND HOANG CO THEY. CONFERENCE WAS WELL ATTENDED

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Department of State TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 05955 01 OF 02 150651Z

BY PRESS, INCLUDING MORE THAN DOZEN US CORRESPONDENTS.

2. SUU OPENED MEETING WITH BRIEF WORD OF WELCOME TO PRESS HIS ONLY CONTRIBUTION OF THE DAY. DZU TOOK OVER, NOTING THAT REASON FOR PRESS CONFERENCE WAS TO DENOUNCE ELECTION, IN WHICH, DESPITE CHEATING, TWO THIRDS OF PEOPLE VOTED NO-CONFIDENCE IN THIEU-KY. HE SAID THAT DISCIPLINED OPPOSITION IS NECESSARY IF VIETNAM IS TO HAVE TRUE DEMOCRACY. DZU THEN YIELDED TO VU HONG KHANH WHO READ "DECLARATION" OF NEW ORGANIZATION CALLED "FRONT STRUGGLING TO CARRY OUT DEMOCRACY", THE "DEMOCRATIC FRONT" FOR SHORT.

3. DECLARATION STATES THAT, IN FACE OF WAR, INCAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES AND NEED FOR DEMOCRADCY, "WE SOLEMNLY DENOUNCE BEFORE DOMESTIC AND WORLD OPINION" CHEATING OF AUTHORITIES IN RECENT ELECTION WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO LEGALIZE AN ILLEGAL REGIME; "WE TAKE NOTE OF DEFEAT OF AUTHORITIES" SINCE, DESPITE CHEATING AND PRESSURE,

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 5955/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
TWO THIRDS OF PEOPLE VOTED NO-CONFIDENCE IN THIEU-KY. DECLARATION CALLS ON "COMPATRIOTS" OF EVERY STRIPE TO JOINT DEMOCRATIC FRONT IN ORDER TO BUILD LEGITIMATE DEMOCRACY, STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND BRING ABOUT TRUE AND LASTING PEACE. IT IS DATED SEPTEMBER 14 AND SIGNED BY SUU, HOANG CO BINH, DU, TRAN VAN LY, NGUYEN HOA HIEP AND VU HONG KHANH. (BINH LATER TOLD PRESS THAT HE WAS A SUPPORTER OF THE FRONT, BUT NOT AN OFFICIAL MEMBER.)

4. NGUYEN HOA HIEP THEN READ JOINT PROTEST BY SIX PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES PRESENT CHARGING THAT ELECTION WAS RIGGED, DECLARING THAT THEY DO NOT ACCEPT RESULTS, AND ASKING ASSEMBLY TO THROW OUT ELECTION AND ORGANIZE ANOTHER. (COMMENT: NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS PROTEST HAS ACTUALLY BEEN SUBMITTED TO ASSEMBLY. IT SEEMS TO BE CONDENSED VERSION OF FORMAL PROTEST (REF B) SUBMITTED BY EIGHT CANDIDATES SEPTEMBER 5.)

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Department of State TELEGRAM

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 05955 01 OF 02 150651Z

5. AT THIS POINT POLICE CHIEF OF SAIGON DISTRICT 3 AND 4 OR 5 POLICMEN ENTERED ROOM. POLICE DID NOTHING, BUT PROVIDED HANDY TARGET FOR STATEMENTS OF OUTRAGED

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 5955/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
INDIGNATION FROM DZU AND HIS COHORTS. DZU DENOUNCED THIS INCURSION ON HIS FREEDOM OF SPEECH; BINH "STRONGLY DENOUNCED PRESENCE OF POLICE", ADDING THAT "THIS GOVERNMENT IS EVEN MORE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC THAN NGUYEN KHANH". BINH DEPLORED FACT THAT GOVERNMENT HAS TURNED DICTATORIAL EVEN BEFORE ITS INAUGURATION.

6. WITH THAT OUT OF THEIR SYSTEM, SHOW CONTINUED. REPEATED UPPER HOUSE CNAIDATE NGUYEN TRAN DISTRIBUTED ANOTHER DECLARATION, OF ANOTHER NEW ORGANIZATION, THE "MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE STRUGGLING FOR DEMOCRACY". IMPACT OF COCUMENT WAS SOMEWHAT REDUCED BY ITS FIRST PARAGRAPH WHICH BLASTED AUTHORITES FOR "PREVENTING DEMOCRATIC FRONT AND OUR MOVEMENT FROM HOLDING PRESS CONFERENCE", AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACT WHICH "DEMONSTRATES INTENTION OF AUTHORITIES TO COVER UP THE TRUTH". AND WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR MOVEMENT TO PRESENT ITS PROGRAM OF ACTION TO PEOPLE. TRAN EXPLAINED THAT PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED. DECLARATION WENT ON TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR SPIRIT OF STRUGGLE" OF STUDENTS AND PLEDGED THAT

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 5955/1 C O N F I D E N T I A LDU
MOVEMENT WOULD "CLOSE RANKS
WITH STUDENTS" IN STRUGGLE FOR TRUE
DEMOCRACY. DECLARATION NOTED THAT EVIDENCE OF ELECTION IRREGULARITIES WAS PRESENTED IN SEPTEMBER 13 SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND CHARGED "SERIOUS VIOLATIONS" OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW. DECLARATION CALLED ON PEOPLE TO JOIN WITH MOVEMENT (WHICH IT CLAIMS RECEIVED AND AGGREGATE OF 15 MILLION VOTES IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION) IN

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Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 05955 01 OF 02 150651Z

VICTORIOUS STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY. IT ALSO IS DATED SEPTEMBER 14 AND IS SIGNED BY "REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE" MEMBERS NGUYEN TRAN, THAM THAI, NGUYEN TUONG BA, PHAM LOI, HONG HGOC AND NGUYEN KIEN GIANG.

7. THE SIX DEFEATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES DISTRIBUTED ONCE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT, AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE "MANIFESTO" WHICH APPEARED IN SEPTEMBER 13 EDITION OF SAIGON DAILY NEWS. MANIFESTO 1) "SOLEMNLY DENOUNCES" AGGRESSIVE AND CORRUPT PRACTICES OF GVN; 2) NOTES THAT IN SPITE OF GOVERNMENT RIGGING AND PRESSURES TWO-THIRDS OF PEOPLE VOTED FOR CHANGE, AND PLEDGES TO "SPEAK OUT ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WANT TO BE RULED BY OPPRESSIVE MINORITY GOVERNMENT"; 3) APPEALS TO "PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF

PAGE 6 RUMJIR 5955/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
UNITED STATES" TO HELP VIETNAM ACHIEVE SELF-DETERMINATION. "WE URGE ALL OF YOU (AMERICANS) WHO ARE FRIENDS OF FREEDOM TO WITHDRAW YOUR SUPPORT FROM A REPUDIATED GOVERNMENT AND TO EXTEND IT INSTEAD TO THOSE WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR PEACE, SOCIAL PROGRESS AND GENUINE DEMOCRACY."
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Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05955 02 OF 02 150230Z

8;
ACTION EA-10

INFO SAL-01 SP-02 SS-35 GPM-03 SC-01 NSC-10 RSC-01 AID-30 SAH-03
IO-21 RSR-01 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 DODE-00 USIE-00 NSAE-00 L-03
H-02 P-04 INR-07 /143 W

P R 141025Z SEP 67 ZFD
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6855
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4246
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 963
AMEMBSSSY VIENTIANE 2330

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 5955

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

8. A QUESTION PERIOD FOLLOWED, WITH DZU DOING MOST OF TALKING. IN REPLY TO QUESTION FROM SAIGON POST, DZU SAID THAT IF ASSEMBLY ALIDATES ELECTION HE WILL ORGANZE "DISCIPLINED OPPOSITION" AS IS PROVIDED FOR IN CONSTITUTION. IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION, DZU ASSURED AUDIENCE THAT HE DID NOT GET CAMPAIGN MONEY FROM FRENCH OR FROM AMERICANS. HE LATER CLAIMED THAT BOTH HE AND RUNNING-MATE CHIEU "SOLD OUR PROPETY" TO PAY FOR CAMPAIGN. ASKED IF HE WOULD AGREE TO SERVE AS PRIME MINISTER IF GOVERNMENT REQUESTED HIS SERVICES, DZU SAID NO ONE HAS INVITED HIM

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 5955/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
TO BE PRIME MINISTER, AND ADDED THAT "LONG STRUGGLE" FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY, ETC. IS WHAT FUTURE HOLDS

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 05955 02 OF 02 150230Z

FOR HIM. HOANG CO BINH, ALTHOUGH NOT ASKED, AVERRED TAT HE TOO WOULD NEVER ACCEPT MONEY FROM FOREIGNERS. ASKED WHY TWO SEPARATE "STRUGGLE" ORGANZIATIONS HAVE BEEN ESTUALISHED, DZU SAID THEY SHARE CMMON PURPOSE. CONVCHUNG CORRESPONDENT NOTED THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE SAID ELECTION WAS FAIR, AND ASKED DZU WHAT HE THOUGHT OF SUCH STATEMENTS. DZU REPLIED THAT EVEN A CHILD COULD RECOGNIZE ELECTIONS WERE REIGGED, ADDING THAT IF OBSERVERS COULD NOT POSSIBLY KNOW WHETHER ELECTION WAS FAIR OR NOT. PHAM THAI ADDED THAT "HIGH RANKING AMERICANS SAID ELECTION WOULD BE FAIR EVEN BEFORE IT TOOK PLACE". TU DO ASKED HOW DZU AND COMPANY COULD CLAIM TO SPEAK FOR TWO-THIRDS OF ELECTORATE. HE REPLIED THAT OTHERSRESIDENTIAL LISTS HOAVE NOT APPOSED THEIR STRUGGLE. DZU LATER ADDED THAT "WE HAVE NOT YET SPOKEN TO HUONG AND HA THUC KY ABOUT DEMOCRAFTIC FRONT", BUT HE HOPED THEY WOULD JOIN IN FUTURE.

9. COMMENT: A) LANGUETE OF PWRIOUS DECLARATIONS AND MANIFESTOS ISSUED AT PRESS CONFERENCE IS QUITE STRONG

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 5955/2 CO N F I D E N T I A L
(AND DCCASIONALLY RIBVCULOUS). IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, ASOWEVER, WHAT DIRECTIONS "STRUGGLE" OF THESE TWO GROUPS WILL TAKE. DZU DID MAKE SEVERAL RATHER REALISTIC AND REASONSABLE STATEMENTS ABOUT FORMATION OF DISCIPLINED LEGAL OPPOSITION. IT THAT IS WHAT HE INTEMUS, "DEMOCRATIC FRONT" COULD BE USEFUL VEHICLE FOR HIS PURPOSES.

B) ALTHOUGH HE PROBABLY BELIEVES HE IS THE REAL LEADER RKOF THIS OPERATION, PHAN KHAC SUU APPEARS TO HAVE SOLD OUT TO DZU, THUS MORTAGPG MUCH OF HIS REMAINING PRESTIGE AS AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL FIGURE.

C) CECLARATION OF THE DEFEATED UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATES DOES NOT MAKE CLEAR HOW MANY SLATES ARE INVOLVED, EXCEPT FOR UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIM THAT HTEY RECEIVED 15 MILLION VOTES. WHILE THEY MAY TRY TO NHKE COMMON CAUSE WITH "STUDENTS" IN SHORT RUN, THEIR "MOVEMENT" IS UNLIKELY

Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 05955 02 OF 02 150230Z

TO CONTINUE AS A FORMAL ORGANIZATION.

D; DZU REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS THAT DEOMONSTRATION WOULD BE ORGANIZED (PRSUMABLY BY DEMOCRATIC FRONT) SEPTZGBER 19 IN FRONT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. GP-3 BUNKER

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